

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-15, 17-19, 21 and 23-24 are all the claims pending in the application.

***Claim rejections***

Claims 1-4, 7 and 23-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Robarts et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2005/0278741; hereinafter “Robarts”) in view of Lee et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,463,428; hereinafter “Lee”) and further in view of Saito et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2003/0140309; hereinafter “Saito”).

Claims 8-15, 17-19 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Robarts in view of Lee and Saito, and further in view of Kikinis (U.S. Patent No. 7,213,256; hereinafter “Kikinis”).

Claims 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Robarts in view of Lee and Saito, and further in view of Hori et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,209,942; hereinafter “Hori”).

Applicant traverses the rejection for at least the following reasons.

**Claim 1**

In the January 7, 2009 Amendment, Applicant submits that Robarts and Lee, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest “the search frequency corresponds to a frequency at which the search terms are input from the external input device.” In response, the Examiner concedes that Robarts and Lee do not teach or suggest these features of claim 1, but asserts that Saito (newly cited reference) allegedly discloses these features missing in Robarts and Lee. The

Examiner asserts that paragraph [0050] - [0051] and step S3 in figure 3 of Saito discloses the features discussed above. Applicant disagrees with the Examiner for at least the following reasons.

Saito is directed to an information processing apparatus and method for acquiring from e-mail content, words and related information likely to attract a user's attention before storing the acquired information into a database (paragraph [0001]). Saito discloses that the information processing apparatus includes an extracting element for extracting a first characteristic word from the existing document information and a second characteristic word from the specific document information, a weight calculating element for calculating a first weight of the first characteristic word and a second weight of the second characteristic word, a weight modifying element for modifying the first weight based on the specific condition and an acquiring element for acquiring the related information corresponding to the existing document information, based on the first characteristic word extracted by the extracting element. However, Saito does not teach or suggest the search frequency corresponds to a frequency at which the search terms are input from the external input device.

In figure 3, Saito discloses acquiring unprocessed documents (e.g., e-mails) from the storage unit and supplying them to the document attribute processing part (S1). The document attribute processing part extracts attribute information (header information such as message IDs) from the e-mail documents, classifies the documents into groups of topics and feeds the document groups to the document content processing part (S2). The document content processing part extracts text data from the document groups and subjects the extracted data to

analysis in order to extract words excluding unnecessary words (S3). Then, the document content processing part obtains the frequency of occurrence of each word extracted in step S3 and the distributing status of each of the words throughout a plurality of documents and calculates the weight of each work in each topic (S4) (paragraphs [0112]-[0115]). However, this does not teach or suggest that the search frequency corresponds to a frequency at which the search terms are input from the external input device.

In particular, according to Saito, frequency of occurrence corresponds to the occurrence of each word extracted from the text data in the document (e-mail). In contrast, the claimed invention describes that the search frequency corresponds to a frequency at which the search terms are input from the external input device. That is, frequency of occurrence of words extracted from within a particular document does not teach or suggest frequency of search terms being input from an external device.

Moreover, paragraphs [0050] - [0051] merely disclose that the agent program is installed in a personal computer and the extraction and analysis process being performed on the agent program. This also does not teach or suggest that the search frequency corresponds to a frequency at which the search terms are input from the external input device. In fact, since Saito discloses that the agent program is installed within the personal computer, there is no teaching or suggestion of an external device from which search terms are input from and the frequency at which the input of these search terms corresponding to the search frequency, as recited in the claimed invention.

Furthermore, even if, *assuming arguendo*, the Examiner's assertion that "[paragraphs 0050-0051] shows that the search or frequency terms in step s4 of figure 3 of the agent program are then sent to an external device such as personal computer" is proper, this still does not teach or suggest that the search frequency corresponds to a frequency at which the search terms are input from the external input device. That is, terms being sent to an external apparatus as contended by the Examiner do not teach or suggest search terms input from an external input device.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable over the cited references.

Claims 8, 11, 15 and 19

Applicant submits that since claims 8, 11, 15 and 19 recite subject matter analogous to claim 1 and since Kikinis does not teach or suggest the features of claim 1 missing in Robarts, Lee and Saito, claims 8, 11, 15 and 19 are patentable for at least the analogous reasons claim 1 is allowable.

Claims 2-4, 7, 9, 12-14, 17, 18, 21 and 23-24

Applicant submits that claims 2-4, 7, 9, 12-14, 17, 18, 21 and 23-24 depend from one of the independent claims, and therefore these claims are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

Claims 5 and 6

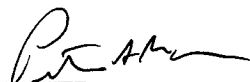
Applicant submits that since claims 5 and 6 depend from claim 1 and since Hori does not cure the deficiencies noted above with regard to claim 1, Applicant submits that claim 1 is allowable over the cited references.

***Conclusion***

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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